

HOUSE BILL REPORT

ESHB 1514

As Passed House:

March 9, 2009

Title: An act relating to adding and deleting counseling professions subject to the authority of the secretary of health under the uniform disciplinary act.

Brief Description: Regarding counseling professions subject to the authority of the secretary of health.

Sponsors: House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Green, Hinkle, Cody and Morrell; by request of Department of Health).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 2/3/09, 2/6/09 [DPS];

Health & Human Services Appropriations: 2/18/09, 2/25/09 [DPS(HCW)].

Floor Activity

Passed House: 3/9/09, 97-0.

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Adds certain counseling-related professions to the Uniform Disciplinary Act.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 10 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Ericksen, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Campbell, Clibborn, Green, Kelley, Moeller, Morrell and Pedersen.

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS

Majority Report: The substitute bill by Committee on Health Care & Wellness be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 15 members: Representatives Pettigrew, Chair; Seaquist, Vice Chair; Schmick, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander,

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Cody, Dickerson, Ericksen, Johnson, Miloscia, Morrell, O'Brien, Roberts, Walsh and Wood.

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392)

Background:

In 2008 legislation was passed dealing with the practice of counseling. The legislation eliminated the credential of registered counselor as of July 1, 2010, and created eight new credentials:

- Agency Affiliated Counselors (authorized to provide counseling services on behalf of a state agency);
- Certified Advisors (authorized to engage in private practice counseling);
- Certified Counselors (authorized to engage in private practice counseling); and
- the following associate and trainee credentials for persons who are working toward achieving educational and/or experiential requirements for full credentialing:
 - Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate;
 - Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate;
 - Licensed Social Work Associate – Advanced;
 - Licensed Social Work Associate – Independent Clinical; and
 - Chemical Dependency Professional Trainee.

The 2008 legislation did not, however, update the section of the Uniform Disciplinary Act that lists the professions over which the Secretary of Health has disciplinary authority.

Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill:

The following professions are added to the section of the Uniform Disciplinary Act that lists the professions over which the Secretary of Health has disciplinary authority:

- Agency Affiliated Counselors;
- Certified Advisors;
- Certified Counselors;
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate;
- Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate;
- Licensed Social Work Associate – Advanced;
- Licensed Social Work Associate – Independent Clinical; and
- Chemical Dependency Professional Trainee

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed, except section 2, relating to the exclusion of registered counselors, which takes effect July 1, 2010.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony (Health Care & Wellness):

(In support) This is a clean-up bill that adds several professions created in legislation last year to the Uniform Disciplinary Act.

(Opposed) None.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony (Health & Human Services Appropriations):

(In support) This is a clean up bill that makes the Department of Health's authority very clear.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying (Health Care & Wellness): (In support) Representative Green, prime sponsor; and Karen Jensen, Department of Health.

Persons Testifying (Health & Human Services Appropriations): Karen Jensen, Department of Health

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Health Care & Wellness): None.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Health & Human Services Appropriations): None.